

REMARKS/ARGUMENTSI. Introduction

Claims 1, 9, 19 and 23 have been amended. Claims 11-18, 21-22 and 24-31 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-10, 19-20, and 23 are now pending.

As will be discussed below, each of the now pending independent claims includes subject matter which was indicated in the last office action to be allowable. Accordingly, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

II. The Pending Claims are Allowable

In the June 19, 2006 Office Action the Examiner indicated that claims 9-11, 19, 20 and 23 were directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has taken the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter into consideration and have amended the claims accordingly.

1. Claims 1-8

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 11 which depended from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 2-8 which depend therefrom are now in condition for allowance. In view of the amendment to claim 1, claim 11 which was indicated to

be directed to allowable subject matter has been canceled.

2. Claims 9-10

Claim 9 was indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form and is therefore now in condition for allowance. Claim 10 depends from claim 9 and is therefore also allowable.

3. Claims 19-20

Claim 19 was indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form and is therefore now in condition for allowance. Claim 20 depends from claim 19 and is therefore also allowable.

4. Claim 23

Claim 23 was indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form and is therefore now in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

If there are any outstanding issues which need to be resolved to place the application in condition for allowance the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by phone to discuss and hopefully resolve said issues. To the extent necessary, a petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made and any required fee is authorized to be charged to the deposit account of Straub & Pokotylo, deposit account number 50-1049.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper (and any accompanying paper(s)) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent Office on the date shown below.

Michael P. Straub

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September 19, 2006

Date